

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A T-post bracket adapted to be received on an elongated T-post having a crossbar with opposing front and rear faces, with a main bar extending generally centrally from the front face and studs extending generally centrally from the rear face opposite the main bar, the studs being spaced along at least a portion of the length of the crossbar, the bracket comprising:
 - a. a stop member having right and left sides, and a midsection therebetween;
 - b. opposing retaining tabs with:
 - (1) one retaining tab extending from the right side of the stop member and the other retaining tab extending from the left side of the stop member, and
 - (2) the retaining tabs being:
 - (a) spaced from the stop member by a T-post crossbar space sized to receive a crossbar of an inserted T-post, and
 - (b) spaced from each other by a T-post main bar space sized to receive a main bar of an inserted T-post; and
 - c. opposing stanchion engagement fastener holes defined between the retaining tabs and the midsection of the stop member, wherein a stanchion engagement fastener may be inserted into the stanchion engagement fastener holes to rest between spaced studs of an inserted T-post.
2. The T-post bracket of claim 1 further comprising a hinge post extending from the stop member.

3. The T-post bracket of claim 2 wherein the hinge post is oriented in a direction at least substantially perpendicular to an axis defined between opposing stanchion engagement fastener holes.

5 4. The T-post bracket of claim 1 further comprising a pair of engagement legs spaced by a brace post receiving slot opening onto the T-post main bar space, wherein the engagement legs have opposing brace engagement fastener holes defined therein.

10 5. The T-post bracket of claim 4 further comprising a hinge post extending from the stop member.

6. The T-post bracket of claim 4 wherein each engagement leg is defined by:

- (1) an at least substantially planar engagement leg side section, and
- (2) an at least substantially planar engagement leg top section,

15 wherein:

- a. the brace engagement fastener holes are defined within the engagement leg side sections,
- b. the engagement leg top sections are at least substantially coplanar.

20 7. The T-post bracket of claim 6 wherein the stop member is at least substantially coplanar with the engagement leg top sections.

8. The T-post bracket of claim 6 wherein the engagement leg top sections each extend from one of the retaining tabs.

25 9. The T-post bracket of claim 6 wherein the engagement leg side sections are at least substantially parallel.

10. The T-post bracket of claim 6 wherein the right and left sides of the stop members are each joined to one of the engagement legs.

5 11. The T-post bracket of claim 10 wherein the stanchion engagement fastener holes are defined within the engagement legs.

12. The T-post bracket of claim 1 further comprising a pair of spaced engagement legs extending from the retaining tabs, with the space therebetween defining a brace post receiving slot opening onto the T-post main bar space,

10 and wherein the engagement legs have opposing brace engagement fastener holes defined therein, whereby a brace engagement fastener may be inserted through a fastener hole in one engagement leg to extend into a brace engagement fastener hole in the other engagement leg.

15 13. The T-post bracket of claim 1 further comprising a pair of engagement legs, each engagement leg extending from one of the right and left sides of the stop member, with the engagement legs being spaced to define a brace post receiving slot opening onto the T-post main bar space.

14. A T-post bracket adapted to be received on an elongated T-post having:

- (i) a crossbar with opposing front and rear faces,
- (ii) a main bar extending along the front face, and
- (iii) spaced studs protruding from the rear face opposite the main bar,

the bracket comprising:

- a. a stop member having opposing right and left sides, and a midsection therebetween;
- b. a pair of opposing engagement legs, each extending from one of the right and left sides of the stop member to terminate in a brace insertion end opposite the stop member;
- c. a T-post stanchion insertion space defined in the bracket between the engagement legs, the T-post stanchion insertion space being partially bounded by the stop member and being sized to receive an inserted T-post;
- d. one or more stanchion engagement fastener holes defined in the bracket and opening onto the T-post stanchion insertion space, the stanchion engagement fastener holes being oppositely situated to allow receipt of a stanchion engagement fastener extending between the engagement legs and across the T-post stanchion insertion space;
- e. one or more brace engagement fastener holes defined in each of the opposing engagement legs between the T-post stanchion insertion space and the brace insertion end, the brace engagement fastener holes being oppositely situated to accommodate a brace engagement fastener extending between the engagement legs.

15. The T-post bracket of claim 14 further comprising opposing retaining tabs, each extending inwardly from one of the sides of the stop member and partially bounding the T-post stanchion insertion space, wherein the engagement legs each extend from one of the retaining tabs.

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16. The T-post bracket of claim 14 wherein the stanchion engagement fastener holes are defined in the engagement legs.

17. The T-post bracket of claim 14 wherein each engagement leg is defined by:

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- (1) an engagement leg top section, and
- (2) an engagement leg side section extending downwardly from the engagement leg top section,

wherein:

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- a. the brace engagement fastener holes are defined within the engagement leg side sections,
- b. the engagement leg top sections are at least substantially coplanar.

18. The T-post bracket of claim 17 wherein the stop member is at least substantially coplanar with the engagement leg top sections.

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19. The T-post bracket of claim 17 further comprising opposing retaining tabs, each extending inwardly from one of the sides of the stop member and partially bounding the T-post stanchion insertion space, wherein the engagement leg top sections each extend from one of the retaining tabs.

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20. The T-post bracket of claim 17 wherein the engagement leg side sections are at least substantially parallel.

21. The T-post bracket of claim 17 wherein the right and left sides of the stop members are each joined to one of the engagement legs.

5 22. The T-post bracket of claim 14 further comprising a pair of retaining tabs, each extending inwardly from one of the engagement legs, the retaining tabs being:

a. spaced from the stop member by a T-post crossbar space defining a portion of the T-post stanchion insertion space, the T-post crossbar space being sized to receive a crossbar of an inserted T-post, and

10 b. spaced from each other by a T-post main bar space defining a portion of the T-post stanchion insertion space, the T-post main bar space being sized to receive a main bar of an inserted T-post.

15 23. The T-post bracket of claim 14 further comprising a hinge post extending from the stop member.

24. A T-post bracket adapted to be received on an elongated T-post, the T-post having a length defined by:

- (i) a crossbar with opposing front and rear faces,
- (ii) a main bar extending from the front face, and
- (iii) spaced studs extending from the rear face opposite the main bar,

the bracket comprising:

- a. a stop member having opposing right and left sides, and a midsection therebetween;
- b. a pair of opposing engagement legs, each extending from one of the right and left sides of the stop member to terminate in a brace insertion end opposite the stop member, and each engagement leg including:

- (1) a retaining tab spaced from the stop member, wherein the retaining tabs of the opposing engagement legs are spaced:

- (a) from each other by a T-post main bar space sized to receive a main bar of a inserted first T-post, and

- (b) from the stop member by a T-post crossbar space sized to receive a crossbar of such inserted first T-post;

- (2) one or more stanchion engagement fastener holes defined therein between the T-post main bar space and the stop member, wherein the stanchion engagement fastener holes of the opposing engagement legs are oppositely situated to accommodate a stanchion engagement fastener extending between the engagement legs; and

- (3) one or more brace engagement fastener holes defined therein between the T-post crossbar space and the brace insertion end, wherein the brace engagement fastener holes of the opposing

engagement legs are oppositely situated to accommodate a brace engagement fastener extending between the engagement legs.

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25. The T-post bracket of claim 24 wherein the engagement legs each include:
- (1) an engagement leg top section, and
 - (2) an engagement leg side section extending downwardly from the engagement leg top section,
- wherein the brace engagement fastener holes are defined in the engagement leg side sections.
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26. The T-post bracket of claim 25 wherein the stanchion engagement fastener holes are defined in the engagement leg side sections.
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27. The T-post bracket of claim 25 wherein
- a. the engagement leg top sections are at least substantially coplanar, and
 - b. the engagement leg side sections are at least substantially parallel.
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28. The T-post bracket of claim 25 wherein the retaining tabs define portions of the engagement leg top sections and extend coplanarly therefrom.
29. The T-post bracket of claim 24 wherein the T-post main bar space extends from the retaining tabs to the brace insertion end.
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30. The T-post bracket of claim 24 further comprising a hinge post extending from the stop member.

31. A T-post bracket for mounting on an elongated T-post, the T-post having a crossbar with opposing front and rear faces, a main bar extending generally centrally from the front face, and studs extending generally centrally from the rear face opposite the main bar, the studs being spaced along the crossbar, the bracket comprising:

- a. a stop member extending between opposing right and left sides;
- b. a hinge post extending upwardly from the stop member;
- c. a pair of opposing retaining tabs, each extending from one of the opposing sides of the stop member and terminating in a tab end, the tab ends being:
 - (a) spaced from the stop member by a T-post crossbar space sized to receive a crossbar of an inserted T-post, and
 - (b) spaced from each other by a T-post main bar space sized to receive a main bar of such inserted T-post; and
- d. opposing stanchion engagement fastener holes defined between the tab ends and the hinge post, wherein a stanchion engagement fastener may be inserted into the stanchion engagement fastener holes to rest between spaced studs of an inserted T-post.